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24 November 2020

Excellency,

I am writing in response to the statements made by the Greek Cypriot representatives during the 7th meeting of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly held on 18 November 2020, under the agenda item 141: “*Proposed programme budget for 2021: Special Political Missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council*”, as well as at the informal meeting on the same matter, held on 17 November 2020, to set the record straight on some of the issues raised therein pertaining to Your Excellency’s Good Offices Mission in Cyprus.

At the outset, I wish to underline that the Turkish Cypriot people are still denied their rightful representation and participation in the international fora, including the relevant organs of the United Nations, effectively preventing Turkish Cypriots, as one of the equal co-owners of the island, from being heard and allowing Greek Cypriot representatives to blatantly distort historical and legal facts about Cyprus in their absence.

We are aware of the technical nature of the work of the Fifth Committee. Nevertheless, planning the future work of the Office of Good Offices Mission in Cyprus on a completely wrong assumption that efforts for a mutually acceptable settlement in Cyprus will continue “business as usual” is not only factually misleading, but also jeopardizes the effective discharge by the said Office of its duties: Hence, the negotiations will, once again, be doomed to failure.

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

c.c. H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır
President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York.

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As such, the failure in the said proposed budget document to acknowledge the fact that there was a change of leadership in North Cyprus in the aftermath of the Presidential elections in October 2020, as well as the portrayal of a possible new political process as “resumption of full-fledged negotiations” are unacceptable and not in line with the realities on the ground. While proposing the budget for the Special Advisor Office and planning its activities to be financed from the proposed resources, United Nations must not overlook the fact that following the Presidential elections in October, there has been a change in the Turkish Cypriot leadership and that the new mandate given by the Turkish Cypriot people will certainly have an impact on the future parameters of the negotiated settlement process in Cyprus. It must be clear that the new mandate granted by the Turkish Cypriot people is the direct result of the unfaltering resolve of the Greek Cypriot side *not to share power and prosperity* with the Turkish Cypriot side within a federation, which led to the overwhelming rejection of the Comprehensive Settlement Plan for Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot people at the separate and simultaneous referenda held on both sides of the island in 2004 as well as the collapse of the Cyprus Conference in 2017. After failure upon failure in the past 50-plus years of negotiations, it is high time that the United Nations calls for a 5-party meeting to *discuss a way forward* to get the two peoples of the island and the region out of this vicious and dangerous conundrum.

In the light of more than fifty years of failed negotiations carried out on a specific settlement framework, there is no doubt that insisting on the same straitjacket could only serve the perpetuation and consolidation of the non-settlement of the Cyprus problem and thus the status-quo on the island, which all the relevant parties consider to be unacceptable and unsustainable. In this context, it must be remembered that in Resolution 367 (1975), the Security Council underlines that the objective of the process of the new mission of good offices in Cyprus is for the two sides “*to reach freely a solution providing for a political settlement*”. Needless to say, any attempt to impose a settlement framework on the two sides in Cyprus has neither a legal nor a moral basis and is clearly detrimental to Your Excellency’s efforts for a negotiated settlement in Cyprus. As Your Excellency rightly underscored in the latest Report on Your Good Offices Mission in Cyprus (S/2020/685), “*this time it must be different*”.

“*This time can only be different*” if we allow the past experiences and failures at the negotiations guide us to achieve future successes. Our expectation from the United Nations as well as the international community at large, therefore, is to respect the free will of the two peoples in Cyprus and their inherent and inalienable right to freely discuss and formulate what kind of a future they envisage for themselves in the island.

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I would be grateful if the present letter is circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the agenda items 44 and 141 of its 75th session.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mehmet Dâna

Representative

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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